



## Amman Center for Human Rights Studies - Public Report



ACHRS representative participants: Abdah Adam and Mélissa Testouri

### Brief Introduction

*Women Rise for All* is a virtual gathering initiative spearheaded by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, urging leaders in all countries and across all sectors, to address the human crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event aims to bring together influential women leaders from around the globe to share how their **leadership is shaping COVID-19 response**. This initiative intends to support the United Nations appeal to better rebuild and ensure that people around the world have access to essential services and social protection.

*Women Rise for All* is supported by the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), a global gateway to co-create opportunities to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The event was organized on July 14 2020 from 8:00 am to 10:40 am (New York, EDT).

### List of Panelists:

- **Zain Verjee** (journalist and moderator)
- **Amina J. Mohammed** (UN Deputy Secretary General)
- **Mia Mottley** (Prime Minister of Barbados),
- **Simonetta Sommaruga** (President of the Swiss Confederation)
- **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** (former President of Liberia and Nobel Peace prize recipient)
- **Bola Adesola** (Vice-Chair UN Global Compact board)
- **Inger Andersen** (Executive director of UNEP)
- **Leymah Gbowee** (Nobel Peace laureate)
- **Bonnie Henry** (Provincial health officer for British Columbia)
- **Muniba Mazari** (National UN Women Ambassador)
- **Mariana Mazzucato** (Professor at University College London)
- **Natasha Wang Mwansa** (Executive director and founder of the Mwansa Foundation)
- **Annemarie Hou** (Executive director UN Office for Partnerships)
- **Graça Machel** (Chair of the Graça Machel Trust)



- **Jennifer Cassidy** (Lecturer at the University of Oxford)
- **Joyce Mendez** (General director and co-founder of ENERLAM)
- **Alaa Murabit** (Medical doctor and SDGs Advocate)
- **Wawira Njiru** (Founder and executive director of Food4Education)
- **Sanda Ojiambo** (CEO of UN Global Compact)
- **Ghada Waly** (Executive director of UNODC)
- **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** (Executive director of UN Women)
- **Jayathma Wickramanayake** (UN Secretary-General's envoy on youth)
- **Andra Day** (Award-winning singer)
- **Dia Mirza** (Award-winning actor).

**KK. Shailaja**, Indian politician and Minister of health and social welfare of Kerala, was unable to speak due to technological issues.

### [A Global and Local Perspective for All](#)

Under the agenda item, following points were discussed during the event:

- Countries led by female heads of state were **more effective** in flattening the COVID-19 curve and in helping the national economic recovery. These women leaders, from various generations, have successfully managed the pandemic at either local, national and international levels.
- COVID-19 has provided an **opportunity to include women** in government and in other social, economic and political institutions.
- Seizing this crisis is essential to recognize women and move **towards inclusive and sustainable societies**. To achieve these goals, international community must work together.
- Many sections of society, including women, are on the margins of prosperity where “*people may be in the same sea but not in the same boat*” (Ellen Johnson words).

### [Panel 1: Global and Local Leadership in Action](#)

For the first panel, many topics were tackled and questioned:

- Countries must **work as a community**, being firm and **improve solidarity** to fight the coronavirus.
- **Women's participation** at every level is necessary to build stronger and better societies.
- Panelists pointed out the necessity of rethinking how humanitarian work is conducted in order to curb the pandemic.
- Women leaders tried to **alleviate structural economic weaknesses** in order to rethink GDP and reinforce global health systems. **Policymaking** is crucial in times of crisis and countries should strengthen governance and negotiation as essential processes.
- COVID-19 has exposed and reinforced the **inequalities** underwent by women: gender-based violence as well as social and economic vulnerabilities.

### [Keynote session](#)



During this short session, Graça Machel, Chair of the Graça Machel Trust, highlighted the following points:

- Women's leadership is crucial to create a **human-centered and equal world**. Women from various political, ethnic and religious leanings are needed for reconstruction at all levels.
- Countries need to **re-examine the predominant value system** of the last century as the issues resulting from COVID-19 are entirely manmade and leaders have the power to resolve inequalities.
- **Development** and **humanitarian** aid should be the primary interest of States instead of focusing national budgets on militaristic and security machines.
- **Women's rights** must be the priority of all political, financial, economic and social institutions post-COVID-19

### Panel 2: Intergenerational Leadership to Reimagine Our World

For the second panel, following items were raised:

- Principles on **labor rights** and **human rights** are necessary for removing barriers for women.
- **Healthcare** must be a fundamental right because the pandemic has showed that the current system is failing and exacerbating inequalities and inefficiencies.
- In order to eliminate structural inequality and discrimination, young people must take charge and **seize power** because those one expects to have answers do not.

### Leadership Advice

- COVID-19 has had a huge **impact on democracy**, climate change and gender.
- Countries must reform electoral system because they cannot call themselves democratic if they exclude women, young and vulnerable people. Most countries are ruled by men for men.
- The pandemic is an opportunity for governments to **re-start in a greener** way and for the intergenerational women's movement to come together. These women leaders showed that it is necessary to unite the nation

### Brief Conclusion

Although COVID-19 has generated unprecedented global health, humanitarian and development crisis, it has also revealed the power of women's leadership. Women's leadership is clearly essential to effectively recreate and build a better world and to re-examine the dominant value systems.